



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,187	12/16/2005	Satoshi Araki	277514US6PCT	3916
22850 7590 01/13/2011 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER STU, SARAH				
ART UNIT 2431		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 01/13/2011		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
oblonpat@oblon.com  
jgardner@oblon.com

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/561,187

**Applicant(s)**

ARAKI ET AL.

**Examiner**

Sarah Su

**Art Unit**

2431

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/13/10
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 17 May 2010 has been entered. In this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 16, 23, and 24 have been amended, and claim 4 as been canceled.
2. Claims 1-3 and 5-25 are presented for examination.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

As to the amended claim 1, it is argued by the applicant that Aboulhosn does not disclose providing a setting to management apparatus which indicated whether the existence of a device owned by the user is to be disclosed to others. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Aboulhosn discloses that the authentication server provides access information for another online member, where an online member can receive messages from other members (i.e. existence disclosed) and offline members cannot (i.e. existence not disclosed) (0015, lines 10-16, 18-23). Aboulhosn also discloses that a member goes online (i.e. indicate existence is to be disclosed) when the

authentication information provided to the authentication server is authenticated and that the authentication server notifies the group owners who can forward the notification (i.e. disclosure) to group members (0015, lines 18-23, 33-35).

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 13 September 2010 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 11 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 11 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Claims 11 and 24 recite "A computer readable storage medium" which typically covers forms of non-transitory tangible media and transitory propagating signals *per se* in view of the ordinary and customary meaning of computer readable media. Therefore, claims 11 and 24 are considered to be non-statutory. It is noted that adding the limitation "non-transitory" to the claims would exclude transitory propagating signals *per se* and would thus make the claims statutory.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-20, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imazu (US 2002/0087892 A1) and in view of Aboulhosn et al. (US 2004/0068524 A1 and Aboulhosn hereinafter) and further in view of Brickell et al. (US 2003/0115142 A1 and Brickell hereinafter).

As to claims 1, 10-12, 23 and 24, Imazu discloses a system and method for authentication, the system and method having:

**receiving, at the service utilizing apparatus, registration completion information (i.e. login screen display) transmitted from the management apparatus after completing registration with the first user identification information, the first password, and the first apparatus name** (0065, lines 5-9; 0072, lines 1-3).

**managing the service utilizing apparatus by the management apparatus** (0014, lines 3-9, 11-13).

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting, from a service utilizing apparatus, registration information to a management apparatus according to an external input, the**

**registration information including a first user identification information for use in utilizing a service in the service utilizing apparatus together with a first password corresponding to the first user identification information, wherein the management apparatus stores second user identification information for at least a second apparatus, and the first user identification information is set to be different than the second user identification information;**

**subsequently transmitting, from the service utilizing apparatus, a first apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus to the management apparatus, the first apparatus name being selected by a user of the service utilizing apparatus and is selected independently of any apparatus names selected for the second apparatus such that the first apparatus name is allowed to be the same as an apparatus name selected for the second apparatus;**

**transmitting, from the service utilizing apparatus to the management apparatus, disclosure setting information indicating whether or not the existence of the service utilizing apparatus registered in the management apparatus is to be disclosed to other users.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn. Aboulhosn discloses a system and method for peer-to-peer file sharing, the system and method having:

**transmitting, from the service utilizing apparatus to the management apparatus, disclosure setting information indicating whether or not the existence of the service utilizing apparatus registered in the management apparatus is to be disclosed to other users** (0015, lines 18-23, 33-35).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by registering an apparatus with disclosure information. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that registering an apparatus with information regarding its group membership ensures that a computer system is authorized to be a member (0016, lines 5-7). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by registering an apparatus with membership information in order to ensure that a computer is authorized to be a member.

Imazu in view of Aboulhosn fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting, from a service utilizing apparatus, registration information to a management apparatus according to an external input, the registration information including a first user identification information for use in utilizing a service in the service utilizing apparatus together with a first password corresponding to the first user identification information, wherein the management apparatus stores second user identification information for at least a second apparatus, and the first user identification**

**information is set to be different than the second user identification information;**

**subsequently transmitting, from the service utilizing apparatus, a first apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus to the management apparatus, the first apparatus name being selected by a user of the service utilizing apparatus and is selected independently of any apparatus names selected for the second apparatus such that the first apparatus name is allowed to be the same as an apparatus name selected for the second apparatus.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu in view of Aboulhosn, as taught by Brickell.

Brickell discloses a system and method for providing authentication service, the system and method having:

**transmitting, from a service utilizing apparatus, registration information to a management apparatus according to an external input, the registration information including a first user identification information for use in utilizing a service in the service utilizing apparatus together with a first password corresponding to the first user identification information, wherein the management apparatus stores second user identification information for at least a second apparatus, and the first user identification**



**information is set to be different than the second user identification information** (0035, lines 3-5, 7-10);

**subsequently transmitting, from the service utilizing apparatus, a first apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus to the management apparatus, the first apparatus name being selected by a user of the service utilizing apparatus and is selected independently of any apparatus names selected for the second apparatus such that the first apparatus name is allowed to be the same as an apparatus name selected for the second apparatus** (0035, lines 17-22).

Given the teaching of Brickell, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn with the teachings of Brickell by transmitting unique user identification with a password and then an apparatus name. Brickell recites motivation by disclosing that registering a unique user with a non-unique apparatus name provides for an authentication system where users are provided access from many different locations such as a hospital, office, and a home computer (0006, lines 9-14). It is obvious that the teachings of Brickell would have improved the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn by registering a user with a user identification, password, and apparatus name in order to allow for the user to be authenticated from different locations using available authentication devices.

As to claim 13, Imazu discloses:

**wherein in the registering, if the first user identification information, the first password, and the first apparatus name received from a first service utilizing apparatus are associated and registered** (0014, lines 3-9, 11-13),

but does not explicitly disclose:

**a second user identification information, a second password, and a second apparatus name identical to the first apparatus name are received from a second service utilizing apparatus, and the second user identification information is different from the user identification information, then the second user identification information, the second password, and the second apparatus name are associated with one another and registered.** It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to register a second user on the same terminal using different user information since it was known in the art that personal authentication using user name and password is needed in a multi-user computer system or network to verify that the communicating party is real, as shown in Imazu (0006, lines 15-23).

As to claims 2 and 14, Imazu discloses:

**receiving authentication request information comprising the first user identification information (i.e. login identifier) and the first password transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus** (0014, lines 11-14);

**performing an authentication process based on the received first user identification information and first password (0077, lines 1-6);**  
**transmitting authentication results (i.e. URL of registration screen) of the authentication process to the service utilizing apparatus as a result of transmitting the authentication results to the service utilizing apparatus (0072, lines 1-3);**

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**receiving contents identification information about at least predetermined contents data for request of the contents data transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus;**  
**transmitting the contents data corresponding to the received contents identification information to the service utilizing apparatus.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses a system and method for peer-to-peer file sharing, the system and method having:

**receiving contents identification information (i.e. request for content/virtual file) about at least predetermined contents data for request of the contents data transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus (0013, lines 24-27);**

**transmitting the contents data corresponding to the received contents identification information to the service utilizing apparatus** (0013, lines 26-27).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by transmitting data according to an identifier. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that transmitting data that is stored at a location reduces the need for centralized file storage (0003, lines 9-10). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by transmitting data according to an identifier in order to allow data to be stored at different locations while allowing them to be accessed.

As to claims 3 and 15, Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting apparatus name request information about a request for a name of the second apparatus registered as associated with the second user identification information different from the first user identification information to the service utilizing apparatus;**  
**receiving the name of the second apparatus transmitted according to the apparatus name request information from the management apparatus;**  
**displaying the received name of the second apparatus.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses a system and method for peer-to-peer file sharing, the system and method having:

**transmitting apparatus name request information about a request for a name of the second apparatus registered as associated with the second user identification information different from the first user identification information to the service utilizing apparatus** (0015, lines 21-23);

**receiving the name of the second apparatus transmitted according to the apparatus name request information from the management apparatus** (0014, lines 2-6);

**displaying the received name of the second apparatus** (0020, lines 3-7).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by receiving and displaying another apparatus name. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that receiving and displaying other apparatus names allows files to be shared with groups (0014, lines 3-4) and for a user to view the shared file structure (0019, lines 1-3). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu in by receiving and displaying another apparatus name in order to allow for files to be shared and for the file structure to be viewed.

As to claim 16, Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**registering the received disclosure setting information and the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus as associated with each other.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**registering the received disclosure setting information and the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus as associated with each other** (0016, lines 20-21).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by registering an apparatus with disclosure information. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that registering an apparatus with information regarding its group membership ensures that a computer system is authorized to be a member (0016, lines 5-7). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by registering an apparatus with membership information in order to ensure that a computer is authorized to be a member.

As to claims 5 and 17, Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**receiving the name of the second apparatus set to be published among the names of second apparatuses registered as associated with second user identification information.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**receiving the name of the second apparatus set to be published among the names of second apparatuses registered as associated with second user identification information** (0016, lines 20-21).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by receiving the name of another apparatus to be registered. Please refer to the motivation recited above in respect to claim 1 as to why it is obvious to apply the teachings of Aboulhosn to the teachings of Imazu.

As to claims 6 and 18, Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**receiving distribution request information which is transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus as a distribution requester of predetermined contents data and comprising the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus, contents identification information about the contents data, and**

**the second apparatus name of the second service utilizing apparatus which is a provider of the contents data;**

**transmitting the contents data according to the received distribution request information to the second service utilizing apparatus.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**receiving distribution request information which is transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus as a distribution requester (i.e. file sharing system) of predetermined contents data and comprising the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus, contents identification information about the contents data, and the second apparatus name of the second service utilizing apparatus which is a provider of the contents data (0013, lines 24-27);**

**transmitting the contents data according to the received distribution request information to the second service utilizing apparatus (0013, lines 26-27).**

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by transferring information to a requested apparatus. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that providing a copy of a file to an accessing member allows peer-to-peer file sharing



(0013, lines 13-14), reducing the need for a centralized storage space (0003, lines 9-10). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by transferring data to a requested system in order to allow file sharing and reduce the amount of centralized storage space needed.

As to claim 7, Imazu discloses:

**transmitting the second user identification information and a second password to the management apparatus** (0014, lines 10-13).

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**displaying information about a second apparatus name corresponding to the second user identification information and the second password in an authentication reply transmitted from the management apparatus.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**displaying information about a second apparatus name (i.e. computer system identifier) corresponding to the second user identification information and the second password in an authentication reply transmitted from the management apparatus** (0020, lines 3-7).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of

modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by displaying information about an apparatus. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that sharing apparatus information allows other group members to be notified of newly shared or modified files (0013, lines 27-29). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by sharing apparatus information in order to update file sharing information with group members.

As to claim 8, Imazu discloses:

**transmitting the second user identification information and a second password to the management apparatus** (0014, lines 10-13).

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**displaying information about the service used in the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus in an authentication reply transmitted from the management apparatus according to the second identification information about the service;**

**transmitting information for permission of deleting the apparatus name registered in the management apparatus according to an external input.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**displaying information about the service used in the apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus in an authentication reply transmitted from the management apparatus according to the second identification information about the service** (0019, lines 1-5);

**transmitting information for permission of deleting the apparatus name registered in the management apparatus according to an external input** (0018, lines 1-3).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by displaying file sharing information and transmitting apparatus deletion information. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that displaying file sharing information provides a user interface for the shared file structure (0019, lines 11-13) and providing deletion information allows file synchronization to be suspended (0018, line 6). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by displaying service information and providing deletion information in order to provide a user interface and suspend file synchronization.

As to claim 19, Imazu discloses:

**authenticating the first user identification information and the first password transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus** (0077, lines 1-6).

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting information about an apparatus name corresponding to the first user identification information and the first password to the service utilizing apparatus together with an authentication reply corresponding to the authentication.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**transmitting information about an apparatus name corresponding to the first user identification information and the first password to the service utilizing apparatus together with an authentication reply corresponding to the authentication** (0015, lines 4-7; 0016, lines 20-23).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by transferring information about an apparatus with user information. Please refer to the motivation recited above in respect to claim 7 as to why it is obvious to apply the teachings of Aboulhosn to the teachings of Imazu.

As to claim 20, Imazu discloses:

**authenticating the first user identification information and the first password transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus** (0077, lines 1-6).

Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting identification information about a service used by the first apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus together with an authentication reply to the service utilizing apparatus.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**transmitting identification information about a service used by the first apparatus name of the service utilizing apparatus together with an authentication reply to the service utilizing apparatus** (0016, lines 20-23; 0015, lines 4-7; 0019, lines 1-5).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by sending information about file sharing (i.e. service) of an apparatus. Please refer to the motivation recited above in respect to claim 8 as to why it is obvious to apply the teachings of Aboulhosn to the teachings of Imazu.

As to claim 25, Imazu discloses:

**the first registration information transmitting means transmits the first user identification information (i.e. login identifier) and the first password as authentication request information to the management apparatus** (0014, lines 11-14).

8. Claims 9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, further in view of Oho et al. (US 2002/0184515 A1 and Oho hereinafter).

As to claims 9 and 21, Imazu fails to specifically disclose:

**storing the first apparatus name.**

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu, as taught by Aboulhosn.

Aboulhosn discloses:

**storing the first apparatus name** (0024, lines 21-23).

Given the teaching of Aboulhosn, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu with the teachings of Aboulhosn by storing an apparatus name. Aboulhosn recites motivation by disclosing that storing a list of registered computer systems allows a user to identify the computer system to be invited to join a group (0027, lines 5-10). It is obvious that the teachings of Aboulhosn would have improved the teachings of Imazu by storing an apparatus name in order to provide a list of registered computer systems for use by a user.

Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell fails to specifically disclose:

**transmitting deletion permission request information about a request for permission of deleting the first stored apparatus name to the management apparatus;**

**receiving deletion permission information for permission of deleting the first apparatus name according to the deletion permission request information transmitted from the management apparatus;**

**deleting the stored first apparatus name according to the received deletion permission information;**

**transmitting, to the management apparatus, deletion request information about a request for deletion of the first apparatus name registered in the management apparatus;**

**receiving deletion completion information transmitted after completing deleting the first apparatus name and notification information according to the deletion request information from the management apparatus.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell, as taught by Oho.

Oho discloses a system and method for rights management, the system and method having:

**transmitting deletion permission request information about a request for permission of deleting the first stored apparatus name to the management apparatus (0237, lines 9-11);**

**receiving deletion permission information for permission of deleting the first apparatus name according to the deletion permission request information transmitted from the management apparatus (0238, lines 1-3);**

**deleting the stored first apparatus name according to the received deletion permission information (0239, lines 2-4);**

**transmitting, to the management apparatus, deletion request information about a request for deletion of the first apparatus name registered in the management apparatus (0238, lines 6-11);**

**receiving deletion completion information transmitted after completing deleting the first apparatus name and notification information according to the deletion request information from the management apparatus (0240, lines 2-7).**

Given the teaching of Oho, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell with the teachings of Oho by deleting an apparatus and sending a deletion confirmation. Oho recites motivation by disclosing that deleting an identifier from a rights database is used to control license information (0237, lines 3-6) and transmitting a deletion confirmation notifies the user that the identifier has been correctly deleted (0241, lines 8-11). It is obvious that the



teachings of Oho would have improved the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell by deleting an apparatus name and providing deletion confirmation in order to control licensing information and confirm proper deletion.

9. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Bradee (US 2002/0095571 A1) and Satyavolu et al. (US 2003/0191964 A1 and Satyavolu hereinafter).

As to claim 22, Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell fails to specifically disclose:

**performing a user authentication process based on the first user identification information and the first password received in the authentication request information receiving, issuing an authentication session ID which is a session ID with the service utilizing apparatus when authentication is allowed, and transmitting the issued authentication session ID to the service utilizing apparatus;**

**receiving the authentication session ID returned from the service utilizing apparatus, receiving identification information for identification of the server providing the contents, performing a user authentication process based on the received authentication session ID, issuing an authentication ticket corresponding to the received identification information when the authentication is allowed, and transmitting the issued authentication ticket to the service utilizing apparatus;**

**receiving from the server an authentication ticket transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus to the server and then performing an authentication process, and transmitting information about certification acknowledgement when the authentication is allowed to the server;**

**issuing a service session ID which is a session ID with the service utilizing apparatus according to the received information about certification acknowledgement, and transmitting the issued service session ID to the service utilizing apparatus, wherein,**

**in the receiving, the server receives the service session ID and the contents identification information;**

**in the transmitting, the authentication process is performed based on the received service session ID, and the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information is transmitted to the service using apparatus when the authentication is allowed.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell, as taught by Bradee.

Bradee discloses a system and method for providing system-wide computer application security using role-based identifiers, the system and method having:

**performing a user authentication process based on the first user identification information and the first password received in the authentication request information receiving, issuing an authentication**

**session ID which is a session ID with the service utilizing apparatus when authentication is allowed, and transmitting the issued authentication session ID to the service utilizing apparatus (0041, lines 1-8);**

**issuing a service session ID which is a session ID (i.e. surrogate ID) with the service utilizing apparatus according to the received information about certification acknowledgement, and transmitting the issued service session ID to the service utilizing apparatus (0042, lines 2-3, 5-6), wherein, in the receiving, the server receives the service session ID (i.e. surrogate ID) and the contents identification information (i.e. resource name) (0042, lines 17-19);**

**in the transmitting, the authentication process is performed based on the received service session ID (i.e. surrogate ID) , and the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information is transmitted to the service using apparatus when the authentication is allowed (i.e. permitting access) (0042, lines 13-16, 34-36).**

Given the teaching of Bradee, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosen and Brickell with the teachings of Bradee by using a session ID and service session ID in the authentication process to transmit data. Bradee recites motivation by disclosing that using a session ID and surrogate ID to control access to data allows the data to be accessed for a certain amount of time before expiration (0043, lines 7-11). It is obvious that the teachings of Bradee would

have improved the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn and Brickell by using a session ID and surrogate ID to allow access to data in order to limit access to a certain amount of time.

Imazu in view of Aboulhosn, Brickell and Bradee fails to specifically disclose:

**receiving the authentication session ID returned from the service utilizing apparatus, receiving identification information for identification of the server providing the contents, performing a user authentication process based on the received authentication session ID, issuing an authentication ticket corresponding to the received identification information when the authentication is allowed, and transmitting the issued authentication ticket to the service utilizing apparatus;**

**receiving from the server an authentication ticket transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus to the server and then performing an authentication process, and transmitting information about certification acknowledgement when the authentication is allowed to the server.**

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the teachings disclosed by Imazu in view of Aboulhosn, Brickell and Bradee, as taught by Satyavolu.

Satyavolu discloses a system and method for verifying the identity of a user for session authentication purposes during web navigation, the system and method having:

**receiving the authentication session ID returned from the service utilizing apparatus, receiving identification information for identification of the server providing the contents, performing a user authentication process based on the received authentication session ID, issuing an authentication ticket (i.e. UNS token) corresponding to the received identification information when the authentication is allowed, and transmitting the issued authentication ticket to the service utilizing apparatus (0030, lines 1-7; 0031, lines 1-2);**

**receiving from the server an authentication ticket (i.e. UNS token) transmitted from the service utilizing apparatus to the server and then performing an authentication process, and transmitting information about certification acknowledgement when the authentication is allowed to the server (0031, lines 7-9).**

Given the teaching of Satyavolu, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn, Brickell and Bradee with the teachings of Satyavolu by using a ticket for authentication. Satyavolu recites motivation by disclosing that a ticket allows a user to avoid traditional authentication login requirements for a certain amount of time (0031, lines 9-12). It is obvious that the teachings of Satyavolu would have improved the teachings of Imazu in view of Aboulhosn, Brickell and Bradee by using a ticket in order to allow a user to bypass traditional login requirements for a given amount of time.

***Prior Art Made of Record***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Abgrall et al. (US 2003/0037237 A1) discloses a system and method for computer device authentication.
- b. Aoki et al. (US 2004/0165206 A1) discloses a system and method for device management.
- c. Freedman et al. (US 2002/0083123 A1) discloses a system and method for accessing network resources.
- d. Karaoguz et al. (US 2004/0117660 A1) discloses a system and method for theft prevention of media peripherals.
- e. Katsube et al. (US 2004/0249961 A1) discloses a system and method for authentication processing.
- f. Kiyosu et al. (US 2004/0208500 A1) discloses a system and method for supporting print service.
- g. Matsuyama et al. (US Patent 6,574,611 B1) discloses a system and method for registering users to a system.
- h. Owen et al. (US 2004/0187018 A1) discloses a system and method for multi-factor authentication.
- i. Rao et al. (US 2008/0133716 A1) discloses a system and method for providing services.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah Su whose telephone number is (571) 270-3835. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM EST..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sarah Su/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/William R. Korzuch/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431